

REMARKS

Applicants are grateful to the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

The claims in the case are claims 1 – 29. As suggested by the Examiner, claims 1 and 16 have been amended to correct the improper numbering of the method steps and the components of the system respectively. Claims 17 – 29 have been amended to make these claims depend from claim 16 now making them proper and definite.

In the office action mailed May 20, 2004, claims 1-29 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over claims 1-28 of Applicants' the copending Application No. 10/694,971. Applicants have chosen to abandon Application 10/694,971, but not the invention thereof and have mailed a separate Request For Express Abandonment under 37 CFR 1.138 to the Commissioner of Patents. A copy of this request is also attached. Thus, the applicants consider the provisional double patenting rejection now rendered moot.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application, as amended, be allowed to issue.

If a telephone conversation would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the present application, undersigned agent invites the Examiner to telephone at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted



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